

Dewick, has taken this species here on a few occasions, but not since 1982.

Skinner (*Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*, Viking, Harmondsworth, 1984) states that *vetusta* is "resident, reinforced in southern England by immigration." In view of the extreme scarcity of this species here, perhaps it is likely that my specimen had arrived with other immigrants during the autumn and then hibernated.— S. DEWICK, Curry Farm, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex.

#### **Early sightings of *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. in east Sussex**

At an amphibians open day at Woods Hill in April 1991, I was told of two early sightings of *Macroglossum stellatarum*. The first was seen on 18.iv.1991 on a sunny wall outside the Black Horse pub in Lewes. Later on the same day, my informant saw one hovering by a patch of valerian flowers in his garden on the other side of Lewes.— DENNIS DEY, 26 Manor Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8NG.

#### **A further Welsh record of *Hadrognathus longipalpis* (Mulsant & Rey) (Col.: Staphylinidae)**

*Hadrognathus longipalpis* was recently added to the British list by Lott (1989). It is a distinctive omaliine staphylinid with more recently recognised populations in south Wales (Holmes, Boyce and Reed, 1990).

Lott (op. cit.) first located *H. longipalpis* in Cumbria, whilst the Welsh records result from the Welsh Peatland Invertebrate Survey of the Nature Conservancy as was. This survey found *H. longipalpis* in the Watsonian vice-counties of Carmarthen, Glamorgan and Brecon.

In Europe, *H. longipalpis* is more or less montane, largely within influence of Atlantic Ocean-influenced weather systems. All of the Welsh records to date show *H. longipalpis* between 5 and 330 metres altitude, demonstrating that in the principality, it is not exclusively montane.

I can now add a further record for the Brecon Beacons when I encountered a specimen in SO 02 (in the Llanfrynach area) on 13.iv.1991 at 661m O.D. The specimen was found in damp moss amongst *Juncus inflexus* L. on a grazed hillside during a substantial survey of beetles in the area, with two people working simultaneously. It seems therefore that *H. longipalpis* is genuinely local at the site.

It appears that the spread of *H. longipalpis* in western Britain is both mildly explosive and continuing, and is a good example of rapid colonisation of a "natural" habitat. The establishment and colonisation-rate of *H. longipalpis* has few recent parallels in the British fauna; its spread appears dramatically faster than *Leistus rufomarginatus* (Duftschmid) (Col.: Carabidae) and it may well compare with that of the Collared Dove in the British avifauna. It will be interesting to see how far north *H. longipalpis* reaches. What is clear is that perhaps by specialisation rather than direct competition, *H. longipalpis* has created a niche for itself in a long established biological system.